

What is claimed is:

Sub A1 1. A network system including a server device and terminal devices connected to said server device through a network, wherein:

said server device includes

5 input information receiving means for receiving predetermined input information which is sent from said terminal devices through the network,

counting means for counting in accordance with the input information which said input information receiving means has received,

information providing means for providing information corresponding to a
10 value counted by said counting means, and

sending means for sending the information provided by said information providing means to said terminal devices through the network; and

each of said terminal device includes,

input means for inputting the predetermined input information;

15 input information sending means for sending the input information input from said input means, and controlling said input information receiving means of said server device to receive the input information,

receiving means for receiving the information sent from the sending means of said server device through the network, and

20 output means for outputting the information received by said receiving means.

2. The network system as recited in claim 1, wherein:

said information providing means includes voice providing means for providing voice data corresponding to the value counted by said count means; and

25 said output means includes voice output means for outputting a voice corresponding to the voice data which is provided by said voice providing means and sent by said sending means and then received by said receiving means.

3. The network system as recited in claim 1, wherein:

said terminal devices connected to said server device are divided into groups;

said count means is one for counting for every group of said terminal devices; and

said information providing means provides said terminal devices with various

5 information which differ from each group of said terminals, in accordance with a counted result for each group as counted by said count means.

4. A network system including a server device and terminal devices connected to said server device through a network, wherein:

A
said server device includes a memory for storing a program, a processor for
10 executing the program, and a first communications device for sending and receiving information to and from said terminal devices,

the first communications device receiving predetermined input information sent from said terminal devices through the network,

the processor counting in accordance with the input information received by
15 the first communications device,

the processor generating information corresponding to the counted value, and said server device sending the generated information to said terminal devices from the first communications device through the network;

each of said terminal devices

20 includes a memory for storing a program, a processor for executing the program, an input device for inputting information, an output device for outputting information, and a second communications device for sending and receiving to and from said server devices,

inputs the predetermined input information through the input device,

25 sends the input information input from the input device to the second communications device from the second communications device through the network, the second communications device receiving the information from the

communications device of said server device through the network, and

each of said terminal devices outputting the information received by the second communications from the output device.

5 5. An information server system which serves participants of a network service with information through a network, comprising:

accepting means for accepting predetermined information sent from the participants of the network service through the network;

count means for counting in accordance with the predetermined information which said accepting means has accepted; and

10 information providing means for providing information corresponding to a value counted by said count means to the participants of the network service through the network.

A 6. A method for serving information, in a network system including a server device and terminal devices connected to each other through a network, from said server device to said terminal devices, said method comprising:

an inputting step of inputting predetermined input information from said terminal devices;

an input information sending step of sending the input information input in said inputting step from said terminal devices to said server device through the network;

20 a counting step of counting according to the input information which is sent in said input information sending step and received by said server device;

an information providing step, as performed by said server device, providing information corresponding to a value counted in said counting step;

25 a sending step of sending the information provided in said information providing step to said terminal devices from said server device through the network; and

an outputting step of outputting from said terminal devices the information sent in said sending step and received by said terminal device.

7. A method for providing information to participants of a network service through a network, said method including

providing the participants of the network service through the network with information corresponding to a value counted in accordance with predetermined
5 information sent from the participants of the network service through the network.

8. A server device which is connected to terminal devices through a network, comprising:

input information receiving means for receiving predetermined information sent from said terminal devices through the network;

10 counting means for counting in accordance with the input information received by said input information receiving means;

information providing means for providing information in accordance with a value counted by said counting means.

9. The server device as recited in claim 8, wherein said information providing
15 means includes voice providing means for providing voice information according to the value counted by said counting means.

10. The server device of claim 9, wherein said voice providing means provide voice information having a modified voice representation which is output in accordance with the value counted by said counting means.

20 11. The server device as recited in claim 8, wherein:

the predetermined input information is information representing logging in/out of said terminal devices to/from the information provided by said information providing means; and

said counting means counts up when the input information represents the logging in
25 of said terminal devices, and counts down when the input information represents the logging out of said terminal devices.

12. The server device as recited in claim 8, wherein:

the predetermined input information is information, which is input from said terminal devices, as regards contents of the information provided by said information providing means; and

said counting means counts in accordance with the input information which is
5 received by said input information receiving means at a predetermined interval.

13. The server device as recited in claim 12, wherein:

the predetermined input information includes various types of the contents of the information provided by said information providing means; and

said counting means is means for counting for every type of the contents of the input
10 information.

14. The server device as recited in claim 8, wherein:

said terminal devices connected to said server device through the network are divided into groups;

said counting means counts for every group of said terminals; and

15 said information providing means provides said terminal devices with various information which differ from each group of said terminals, in accordance with a counted result for each group as counted by said counting means.

15. The server device as recited in claim 14, further comprising user information registration means for registering information regarding users of said terminal devices
20 which are connected to said server device through the network, and

wherein said terminal devices connected to said server device through the network are divided into groups in accordance with the information registered by said user information registration means, and

said counting means refers to the user information registration means based on the
25 input information received by said input information receiving means, and counts for each group of said terminal devices.

16. A server device which is connected to terminal devices through a network and

includes a memory for storing a program, a processor for executing the program and a communications device for sending and receiving information to and from said terminal devices, wherein:

the communications device receives predetermined input information sent from said
5 terminal devices through the network;

the processor counts in accordance with the input information received by the communications device;

the processor generates information in accordance with a value counted by the processor; and

10 the communications device sends the generated information to said terminal devices through the network.

17. The server device as recited in claim 16, wherein the information generated by the processor includes voice information corresponding to the counted value.

18. The server device as recited in claim 16, wherein:

15 the predetermined input information is information which is input, in said terminal devices, as regards contents of the information generated by the processor and sent from the communications device; and

the processor counts in accordance with the input information received by the communications device at a predetermined interval.

20 19. A computer readable recording medium which records a program making a computer device which is connected to terminal devices through a network function as:

input information receiving means for receiving predetermined input information sent from said terminal devices through the network;

counting means for counting in accordance with the input information received by
25 said input information receiving means;

information providing means for providing information in accordance with a value counted by said counting means; and

sending means for sending the information provided by said information providing means to said terminal devices through the network.

20. A computer data signal embodied in a carrier wave and sent through a communications path, said signal making a computer device which is connected to a plurality of terminal devices through a network function as:

input information receiving means for receiving predetermined input information sent from said terminal devices through said network;

counting means for counting in accordance with the input information received by said input information receiving means; and

10 information providing means for providing information in accordance with a value counted by said counting means; and

sending means for sending the information provided by said information providing means to the terminal devices through the network.

954
A